

Remarks

Claims 2, 3, 8 and 12 are amended, and claim 1 is canceled herein. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 2-17 will be pending in the subject application.

Title

The title has been amended to comply with the scope of the invention recited in the claims. The suggested title did not comply with the scope of the invention recited in the claims and therefore was not adopted. Although an objection was not made, Applicants request the examiner clarify that the title is acceptable as amended.

Allowable Claims

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowability of claims 6, 7 and 10-17. In view of the amendment made above, Applicants believe each of these claims is now allowable.

Section 102 - Claims 1 & 2

Applicants request reconsideration of the rejections of claims 1 and 2 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,561,048 (Schumacher).

Claim 1 has been canceled and claim 2 has been amended to depend from claim 3. Accordingly, the Section 102 rejections of claims 1 and 2 are moot and Applicants request they be withdrawn.

Section 102 - Claims 8 & 9

Applicants request reconsideration of the rejections of claims 8 and 9 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,561,048 (Schumacher).

Claims 8 and 9 recite a fixture comprising a support, and a clamp including at least one pair of rotatably mounted clamping members.

The Office Action states that the moveable jaw (78) is equivalent to the rotatably mounted clamp member. However, the claim recites that the clamp includes at

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least one pair of rotatably mounted clamping members. The moveable jaw (78) is not a pair as claimed. Accordingly, the cited reference fails to disclose each recited feature, and the Section 102 rejection is improper. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Section 102 rejection be withdrawn.

Section 103

Applicants request reconsideration of the rejections of claims 3-5 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,561,048 (Schumacher).

Claims 3-5 recite a fixture comprising a fixture comprising a support including opposing surfaces for engaging laterally opposite tips of at least one pair of protrusions when the dovetail is received in the support, and a clamp.

In contrast, the cited reference discloses an apparatus having one fixed jaw (76) and one movable jaw (78). It appears from Fig. 4 of the cited reference that one protrusion tip engages the fixed jaw, but the opposing protrusion tip does not engage the opposite jaw. Further, the moveable clamp member (78) of Schumacher is intended to "engage the turbine airflow component 20 on the dovetail region 24 when open and draw the base 32 of the turbine airflow component 20 toward and into sealing contact with the article seal 58 as the jaw mechanism 74 moves toward the closed position." (Schumacher, Column 4, Line 66 through Column 5, Line 3.) The jaws would not tend to move the airflow component toward and into sealing contact with the article seal if the moveable clamp member (76) engaged the dovetail protrusion tip as suggested by the examiner. Thus, Schumacher implicitly teaches away from the claimed invention, and the Section 103 rejection is improper. The cited reference neither discloses nor suggests every feature of the claims. Therefore, the Section 103 rejection is improper and Applicants respectfully request that it be withdrawn.

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Conclusion

As the application is in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request a favorable action and Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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